

FLIGHTS OF FANCY: A MASTERWORK AVIARY

A Bluebird to Begin

The Bluebird

Charles Villiers Stanford

Name of children's chorus here

Three Blackbirds

Description of a blackbird

Audubon Society

Wedding Song from Poniky

Bela Bartok

JD Burnett, conductor

Villanelle (from *Les Nuits d'Ete*)

Hector Berlioz

Mary Pat Finucane, mezzo-soprano

Blackbird

Lennon and McCartney, arrange by

Joe Laurenzano and Charles Herrera, whistlers (check spelling of names)

Three Swans

Il bianco e dolce cigno

Jacques Arcadelt

Leda and the Swan

Yeats

The Silver swan

Orlando Gibbons

Hark, Hark, The Lark

Hark, hark, the Lark

Shakespeare

Beim Schlagengehen (from *Vier letzte Lieder*)

Richard Strauss

Casandra LaMotte, soprano

To a skylark (excerpt)

Shelley

Skylark

Johnny Mercer

Mary Pat Finucane

Swallows

Shchedrik

Leontovich

Liebe Schwalbe

Brahms

Hens and Roosters

The Red Wheelbarrow

William Carlos Williams

Il est bel et bon

Passereau

INTERMISSION

Cuckoos

Sumer is icumen in anonymous 14th century
The Masterwork Chorus, aided by the Masterwork audience
 Spring Shakespeare
 Cucu! Juan del Encina
The Masterwork Chamber Choir, conducted by JD Burnett

Nightingales

Die Nachtigall Mendelssohn
Ode to a Nightingale (excerpt) Keats
 The Nightingale Tchaikovsky
 Nachtigall, sie singt so schön from *Liebeslieder Walzer* Brahms
This set (all 3 nightingale pieces) sung by the Chamber Choir, conducted by JD

Birds in flight

Stridono lassu (Nedda's aria from *I Pagliacci*)
Cassandra LaMotte, soprano
The Windhover Gerard Manley Hopkins

Mourning Birds

Trois beaux oiseaux du Paradis from *Trois Chansons* Ravel
Xx, soprano, ss, alto, Eric Schafer, tenor; Kevin Thompson, baritone
 Turtle Dove Vaughan Williams
JD Burnett, tenor
A Minor Bird Robert Frost
 Sometimes I feel arr. Shaw-Parker
Mary Pat Finucane, mezzo-soprano

Doves

Like as the Culver Edmund Spenser
 Ein Taublein weiss Brahms
Conducted by JD Burnett

The Ostrich

The Ostrich Ogden Nash

When Birds Do Sing

It was a lover and his lass William Mathias
 Aus Flueglen des Gesanges Felix Mendelssohn
Mary Pat Finucane, mezzo-soprano
The Wood-thrush Jane Kenyon (p. 193)
 Little Birds Eric Whitacre

readings:

1. *Description of a blackbird*

Audubon Society

The Birds of North American, No. 184, 1995 by Ken Yasukawa and William A. Searcy

The Red-Winged Blackbird, *Agelaius phoenix* (French: carouges aépaulettes; Spanish: Tordo alrojo)

Description: Red-winged Blackbirds are somewhat smaller than an American Robin (approximately 7.5 to 9.5 inches in length). Males are glossy black everywhere except on the epaulets, or shoulders, of the wing. The epaulets are scarlet (the lesser wing coverts) bordered with a buff or yellowish color (the greater wing coverts). A California subspecies, the "Bicolored Blackbird," lacks the yellowish epaulet margins altogether. The bill, eyes, and feet are black

Cool fact: Perhaps the most abundant North American bird, and certainly one of the most studied, is the Red-winged Blackbird, which is also one of the most highly polygynous of all bird species. In northern and northeastern North America, males that have successfully claimed territories mate with 2 or 3 females; in dryer regions, where marsh insects may be more plentiful, the usual ratio is 3 to 6 females per territorial male. Up to 15 females have been observed on the territory of a single male, but the territory owner may not necessarily father all of the young on his territory. Females sometimes mate with several partners during a season or even during a single nesting attempt.

BEHAVIOR: LOCOMOTION

Walking, hopping, climbing. Walking is well developed. Red-winged Blackbird frequently forages on ground. Can also hop backward ("double scratch") when foraging. Sidling on small branches is also well coordinated.

Flight. Agile and slightly undulating. Contour feathers sleeked, tail held out directly behind body, epaulets exposed. Strong flier, can travel great distances (e.g., 80 km [Meanley 1965]) between roosting and foraging areas each day (Orians and Christman 1968).

Swimming and diving. Young occasionally fall in water at nest leaving; have limited ability to swim short distances. Adults do not swim.

Song Spread is the most common and conspicuous display of territorial male (see Fig. 4). It is most often given without obvious recipients, but is also given in response to conspecific male flying over, or perched within or near territory (Nero 1956b, Orians and Christman 1968, Peek 1971). It varies in expression from "incipient" display (epaulets exposed as song is delivered) to full intensity (epaulet feathers erected, wings extended fully and curved downward, tail lowered and fully spread, all contour feathers erected).

2. *The Windhover*

Gerard Manley Hopkins, (Hopkins 30)

3. *Leda and the Swan*

Yeats (immortal 491)

4. *Winter*

Shakespeare (Immortal, 52)

5. *There was an old man with an owl*

Lear

There was an Old Man with an owl,
Who continued to bother and howl;
He sat on a rail
And imbibed bitter ale,
Which refreshed that Old Man and his owl

6. *To A Skylark (excerpt)*

Shelley (immortal 303)

7. *Hark, hark, the Lark*

Shakespeare (Immortal 54)

8. *The Wood-thrush*

Jane Kenyon (p. 193)

9WOOD THRUSH

High on Nardil and June light
I wake at four,
waiting greedily for the first
note of the wood thrush. Easeful air
presses through the screen
with the wild, complex song
of the bird, and I am overcome

by ordinary contentment.
What hurt me so terribly
all my life until this moment?
How I love the small, swiftly
beating heart of the bird
singing in the great maples;
its bright, unequivocal eye.

9. *The Red Wheelbarrow*

William Carlos Williams

The Red Wheelbarrow

so much depends
upon
a red wheel
barrow
glazed with rain
water
beside the white
chickens.

10. *Spring*

Shakespeare (Immortal, 48)

13. *From Ode to a Nightingale*

Keats (Immortal 322)

14. *The Ostrich*

Ogden Nash

The Ostrich roams the great Sahara.
Its mouth is wide, its neck is narra.
It has such long and lofty legs,
I'm glad it sits to lay its eggs.

15. *A Minor Bird*

Robert Frost

I have wished a bird would fly away,
And not sing by my house all day;

Have clapped my hands at him from the door
When it seemed as if I could bear no more.

The fault must partly have been in me.
The bird was not to blame for his key.

And of course there must be something wrong
In wanting to silence any song.

16. *A Seagull*

Ogden Nash (immortal 571)

17. *Like as the Culver*

Edmund Spenser (from sTevens music)

Stridono lassù, Nedda's aria from I Pagliacci

Stridono lassù,
liberamente lanciati a vol,
a vol come frecce, gli augel.
highest.
Disfidano le nubi e sol cocente,
the

e vanno, e vanno per le vie del ciel.
Lasciateli vagar per l'atmosfera
atmosphere
questi assetati d'azzurro e di splendor;
splendor;
seguono anch'essai un sogno, una chimera,
chimera,
e vanno, e vanno fra le nubi d'or.
golden clouds.
Che incalzi il vento e latri la tempesta,
the storm bark,
con l'ali aperte san tutto sfidar;
challenges;
la pioggia, I lampi, nulla mai li arresta,
ever stops it
e vanno, e vanno, sugli abissi e il mar.
sea.
Vanno laggiù verso un paese strano
towards a strange
che sognan forse e che cercano invan.
goes
Ma I boëmi del ciel seguon l'arcano
follow the
poter che il sospinge...e van...
urges...and go...
E van! e van! e van!

Screeching up in the sky,
freely thrown into flight,
to fly as arrows, to the

They challenge the clouds and

scorching sun,
And they go the ways of the sky.
Let it wander in the

this thirsting for azure and for

the way we follow a dream or a

and they go after the

Let the wind chase and

with open wings it heals all

the rain, the lightning, nothing
and they go over abysses and the

They go down there

Which perhaps dreams and which

But the bohemians of the sky
arcane power which it

and they go!